

**Listing and Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing a television signal, comprising:

a signal input for receiving a television signal from one of a plurality of signal source types, each of the plurality of signal source types being associated with a respective signal source and providing respective television signals ~~of varying~~ qualities;

a tuner coupled to the signal input;

a signal processor, coupled to the tuner, for extracting a horizontal synchronization signal from the received television signal; and

a horizontal synchronization signal detector for sampling the horizontal synchronization signal; and

a horizontal synchronization signal processor, coupled to the horizontal synchronization signal detector, for processing the horizontal synchronization signal to determine a quality measure of the received television signal, and enabling or disabling the display of the received television signal in response to the quality measure, wherein

the horizontal synchronization signal processor adaptively processes the horizontal synchronization signal to determine a quality measure of the received television signal by comparing the amplitude of the horizontal synchronization signal with a threshold amplitude level established in response to the signal source type of the received television signal and generating a display signal in response to the determined quality measure.

2.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signal source type comprises one of cable, antenna, and video playback device.

3.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein  
if the amplitude of the horizontal synchronization signal of the received television signal is determined to be below the threshold amplitude level, the

horizontal synchronization signal processor causes the horizontal synchronization signal detector to sample the television signal at a second location to generate a second horizontal synchronization signal, and adaptively processes the second horizontal synchronization signal to determine a second quality measure by comparing the amplitude of the second horizontal synchronization signal with the threshold amplitude level, and enables or disables the display of the received television signal in response to the second quality measure.

4.(Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising the horizontal synchronization signal detector generates a second horizontal synchronization signal at a second location that corresponds to about 10 ms following the location associated with the horizontal synchronization signal.

5.(Currently Amended) A method of processing a television signal comprising the steps of:

receiving a television signal from one of a plurality of signal source types, each of the plurality of signal source types being associated with a respective signal source and providing respective television signals;

sampling a horizontal synchronization signal at a first location in a video field of the television signal; and

processing the sample to determine a quality measure of the television signal using a predefined threshold and generating a display signal in response to the determined quality measure, wherein

the threshold is established in response to a signal source type of the television signal,

if the quality measure is less than a predefined threshold, re-sampling the horizontal synchronization signal at a second location in the video field, and

processing the sample to determine a second quality measure of the television signal.

6.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the re-sampling occurring at the second location corresponds an offset of 10 milliseconds from the first location.

7.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
blanking a video display if the second quality measure is less than a  
predefined threshold level.

8.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
if the second quality measure indicates a low signal strength, displaying a  
weak signal message on the video display.

9.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the predefined  
threshold is established in response to the type of source of the television signal  
selected from the group comprising cable television, over-the-air television, and  
playback devices.

10.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the predefined  
threshold is higher for digital video disk and video cassette recorders and lower for  
cable television signals and over-the-air broadcast television signals.

11.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the predefined  
threshold is lowered for videocassette recorders that are in fast forward or rewind  
mode.

12.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising  
classifying the quality measure as viewable, weak or faulty.

13.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein a video signal  
that is classified as faulty is not displayed.

14.(Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein a video signal  
that is classified as faulty causes an error message to be displayed.

15.(Currently Amended) A method of processing a television signal to determine the quality of the television signal for generating an acceptable picture, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a selected television signal from one of a plurality of signal source types, each of the plurality of signal source types being associated with a respective signal source and providing respective television signals;

sampling the television signal to derive a horizontal synchronization component of the television signal; and

processing the horizontal synchronization component to determine a quality measure of the television signal and either enabling or disabling the display of the television signal in response to the quality measure, wherein

the processing step comprises adaptively processing the horizontal synchronization component to determine the quality measure of the television signal by comparing the amplitude of the horizontal synchronization component with a threshold amplitude level established in response to a signal source type of the received television signal.